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AS 4846—2006

Australian Standard®

Health Care Provider Identification

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- Systems Innovation in Health

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through public comment period.

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Australian Standard®

Health Care Provider Identification

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee IT-014, Health Informatics, to supersede AS 4846—2004, and in response to requests from the health care service community.

This Standard is the result of health industry needs for a common, best practice approach to the way data used for the purpose of identifying health care providers, are captured and stored.

Its objective is to provide the health industry with a specific Standard for Health Care Provider Identification for clinical and administrative data management purposes (data structure and specification) which promotes uniformly good practice in identifying individual providers and recording identifying data. This will assist significantly in ensuring that records relating to each individual provider will be associated with that individual or organization and no other.

Without such a Standard, the unique identification of providers will be jeopardized and there is a risk that different parties may develop inconsistent methods of identification.

This Standard should be read in conjunction with HB 222, *Australian Health Care Client and Provider Identification Handbook*. In addition, this Standard has important uses in conjunction with AS 5017, *Health Care Client Identification*. For example, when patient health information is shared between various health care providers for purposes of clinical management, AS 5017 should be used to ensure the unique identification of the patient associated with a particular provider.

In this publication, the scope of the Standard has been limited to Health Care Provider Identification in Australia only. In the future, consideration will be given to New Zealand and international requirements.

This Standard does not supersede any other Standards (other than AS 4846—2004) but rather acts as a consolidation of best practice principles and guidelines for collection and storage of Health Care Provider Identification data. Where these exist, Standards already in use in health care have been sourced in preference to generally applicable Australian Standards.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An informative appendix is only for information and guidance.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) approved funding for individual and provider identifiers on 10 February 2006, and the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) is tasked with implementing both initiatives. A detailed requirements review and specification phase will commence. At the time of publication, NEHTA was still undertaking this initial phase of work and therefore was not in a position to provide appropriate feedback on these standards. Throughout the course of the projects, NEHTA will consider this Standard and AS 5017 in conjunction with HB 222, and in the context of the national identifiers requirements, to enable a consistent suite of relevant standards. NEHTA will ensure comments are provided following the completion of this work for consideration in the next iteration of the Standards and HB 222.

Standards Australia wishes to thank the Department of Health and Ageing for their continued financial support in helping us to achieve our aims.

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